(d) how much extra expenditure was incurred as a result thereof and officials responsible for this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) There was no case during 2001-02, where during the currency of an agreement for the supply of coal, another agreement was entered into with the same supplier for supply of coal of lower quality at a higher rate. However, there is a Government Audit Party (GAP) para on a similar issue involving an agreement signed on 15th May, 1999 (1999-2000) and another agreement signed with same supplier on 30th June, 2000 i.e., during the year 2000-01. The matter was clarified to GAP citing the fact that though the supplier of coal was the same, two separate purchases were made after following tender process for two different sets of technical specifications, different commercial terms and at two different times with a gap of one year for two different customers and the orders were placed on L-1 bidder on both the occasions. MMTC has accordingly refuted the contention of GAP.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Manufacturing of sub-standard cement

2719. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cement manufacturing companies are found manufacturing sub-standard cement and not adhering to the specification of BIS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against such companies;

(d) whether Government have made BIS norms mandatory for the cement industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) No such cases have come to the notice of the Government of India.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Under Cement (Quality Control) Order, BIS norms

have been made mandatory for cement industry. The cement which does not conform to these norms is required to be destroyed immediately. These norms categorize cement into different varieties on the basis of its binding strength.

Cement factory in Manipur

2720. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the availability/deposit of limestone in Manipur;

(b) whether the Government of Manipur has proposed for setting up of a 200 M.T. capacity per day cement factory in the State; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) As per the Report of the Working Group constituted by the Govenment of India for the formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan for the Cement Industry, Ukhrul District of Manipur State has a total limestone reserves of 21.39 million tonnes scattered at different locations.

(b) and (c) Cement Industry was delicensed in 1991 and since then approval of the Government of India is not required for setting up a cement plant. The entrepreneurs have to only file Industial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with this Department. The State Government of Manipur has not forwarded any proposal for setting up of a 200 M.T. capacity per day cement factory in that State.

Industrial growth centres in Manipur

2721. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which industrial growth centres were sanctioned for Manipur;

(b) the amount earmarked for the centres and the amount spent so far;

(c) the physical progress of the centres; and

(d) the time schedule for completion of the centres?